

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Original) A database stored in data storage of a retailer database computer, the database comprising:

a plurality of product orders each of which comprises an order from a customer to the retailer for purchase of one or more products to be delivered to the customer by an independent local distributor; and

a plurality of data records, each of which is linked to a product order of, each data record containing independent local distributor information that relates to the product order and identifies an independent local distributor who is geographically local to the customer, and is associated with a receipt code that is provided to the customer over an interactive computer network system and then is returned to the retailer by the local distributor such that the provided receipt code for the product order can be retrieved from the database and compared to the sent receipt code, such that a match indicates that the local distributor received the receipt code from the customer upon delivery of the ordered products and is warranted payment for delivery.

29. (Original) A database as defined in claim 28, wherein the interactive computer network system over which the communication message is sent comprises the Internet.

30. (Original) A database as defined in claim 28, wherein the details of the product order comprise a computer network message sent over the Internet to the independent local distributor, listing the products ordered and identifying the customer who ordered them.

31. (Original) A database as defined in claim 28, wherein the delivery confirmation comprises a computer network message received at the retailer computer, the message containing a receipt code, and the receipt code of the message is verified as being identical to the receipt code provided by the retailer computer to the customer.

32. (Original) A database as defined in claim 28, wherein the product order information includes a specification of delivery level of service for the customer product order.